

BORGUM, Cutzen
City College

New York, New York

DRAWER 22

71. 2009, 085.03009


Sculptors - B
(Busts)

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Gutzon Borglum
City College, New York, N.Y.

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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<http://archive.org/details/statuexxxxxxxblinc>

50 Brand Drive

Huntington, N.Y. 11743

January 16, 1967

The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attention: Dr. R. Gerald Mc Murtry

Dear Dr. Mc Murtry

Having read several references
to Lincoln statues in "Lincoln Lore",
I recalled the Lincoln bust on
the campus of my alma mater,
The College of the City of N.Y.

I wrote to the college a few days ago
and asked for details. The attached
letter and photo are the results.

I realize that you may already
have this information in your file
but am sending this on in case you
don't.

The small photo is one I took myself when at the campus. I may be prejudiced but I like it better than the official one.

The reference to the shiny nose is due to a "City" tradition that rubbing it before an exam brings good luck.

You are, of course, at liberty to use this information as you see fit but I would like to have the letter and photos returned. I am a philatelist specializing in Lincolniana and want to use these as illustrations for pages in my albums.

I hope you find the above
useful

yours truly
Gilbert Kline

The City College

NEW YORK 31, N. Y.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

January 14, 1964

Mr. G. Gilbert Kleine
50 Brand Drive
Huntington, New York 11743

Dear Mr. Kleine:

In answer to your request for information about the Abraham Lincoln head at City College, the bronze bust is the work of the late sculptor Gutzon Borglum. It is a copy of the head of Lincoln carved in stone by Borglum on Mount Rushmore, South Dakota. Borglum presented it to City College in 1908. It stands more than three feet high on a tall stone pedestal outside the Convent Avenue entrance to Shepard Hall (formerly the Main Building). The pedestal, designed by professor of art Albert P. d'Andrea (now chairman of the art department) and erected in 1928, was the gift of the Class of 1910.

You are right about the tradition of rubbing the nose of the statue before exams for good luck. How and when the custom arose is not known, but it probably was the invention of a fraternity.

There is no brochure available concerning the Lincoln bust, but I am enclosing a photograph of the statue for your interest. (You may note that the nose is the shiniest portion.)

Yours truly,

Grace Fischer
(Miss) Grace Fischer
Assistant Director



CCNY LINCOLN - BY BORGLUM (1908)
SHEPARD HALL IN BACKGROUND

January 21, 1964

Mr. G. Gilbert Kleine
50 Brand Drive
Huntington, New York 11743

Dear Mr. Kleine:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 16 enclosing the pictures of the Borglum colossal bust of Lincoln at City College, New York. Dr. McMurtry will be away from the office until the end of February, on a speaking tour, so I will take the liberty of answering for him and thanking you in his behalf for sending us the pictures and information.

We did not have pictures of this particular bust in our collection, so we are very happy to have copies made for our files. As soon as the photographer has completed the work, we will see that your photographs, as well as the letter, are returned to you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry

rh/

*letter & photos returned
on 1-30-64*

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